

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) A molded article comprising:

a rigid support having a surface and a plurality of perforations having edges; and

a molded flexible member of thermoplastic material, at least a portion of said flexible member being in abutting relationship with at least a portion of the surface of said support, said flexible member having a hollow interior,

wherein a portion of said flexible member extends through at least some of the perforations of said rigid support, the edges of said perforations being embedded in the portions of the flexible member extending therethrough, thereby fixedly attaching said flexible member to said rigid support.

2. (Original) The article of Claim 1 wherein said rigid support is fabricated from a material selected from metal, thermoset plastic material, thermoplastic material and combinations thereof.

3. (Original) The article of Claim 2 wherein said rigid support is fabricated from thermoplastic material optionally reinforced with a material selected from glass fibers, carbon fibers, metal fibers, polyamide fibers and mixtures thereof.

4. (Original) The article of Claim 1 wherein the thermoplastic material of said flexible member is selected from at least one of thermoplastic vulcanizates, thermoplastic polyolefins, thermoplastic polyurethanes, thermoplastic polyureas, thermoplastic polyamides, thermoplastic polyesters and thermoplastic polycarbonates.

5. (Previously Presented) The article of Claim 1 wherein said flexible member has an outer surface, said flexible member further comprising a fabric covering on at least a portion of said outer surface of said flexible member.

6. (Original) The article of Claim 1 wherein said flexible member has an outer surface, at least a portion of said outer surface having molded-in texture.

7. (Original) The article of Claim 1 wherein said flexible member has an outer surface, said flexible member further comprising an integral film on at least a portion of said outer surface, said integral film being formed on said outer surface by means of an in-mold decoration process.

8. (Original) The article of Claim 1 wherein said flexible member is further fixedly attached to said rigid support by attachment means selected from fasteners, adhesives and combinations thereof.

9. (Original) The article of Claim 1 wherein the interior of said flexible member is filled with a material selected from, pressurized gas, liquid, gel, polymeric foam and combinations thereof.

10. (Original) The article of Claim 1 wherein said flexible member comprises means for reversibly increasing pressure within the hollow interior of said flexible member.

11. (Previously Presented) The article of Claim 10 wherein said means for reversibly increasing pressure within the hollow interior of said flexible member comprises at least one pressure regulating valve that provides fluid communication with the hollow interior of said flexible member, and one of a heated liquid and a cooled liquid are reversibly introduced into the hollow interior of said flexible member through said at least one pressure regulating valve.

12. (Original) The article of Claim 1 wherein said article is a seat.

13. (Original) The article of Claim 12 wherein said rigid support comprises a rigid seat back support and a rigid seat bottom support, and said flexible member

comprises flexible cushions fixedly attached to each of said rigid seat back support and rigid seat bottom support.

14. (Original) The article of Claim 12 wherein said rigid support is a continuous unitary unit.

15. (Original) The article of Claim 1 wherein at least some of said perforations have deformed edge portions, and said deformed edge portions are embedded in the flexible member material extending therethrough.

16. (Previously Presented) The article of Claim 1 wherein said rigid support is a rigid hollow support having an exterior surface and a hollow interior, said flexible member being in abutting relationship with at least a portion of the exterior surface of said hollow support, at least a portion of said flexible member extends through at least some of said perforations into the hollow interior of said rigid hollow support.

17. (Previously Presented) The molded article of Claim 1 wherein said rigid support has a plurality of anchoring extensions extending into said flexible member, each of said anchoring extensions having walls, an interior chamber and at least one wall perforation in said walls, each wall perforation having edges, a portion of said flexible member extends through at least some of said wall perforations into said chamber, the edges of said wall perforations being embedded in the plastic material extending therethrough, thereby fixedly attaching said flexible member to said rigid support.

18. (Previously Presented) The molded article of Claim 1 wherein said rigid support has edges, and said flexible member is further fixedly attached to said rigid support by means of portions of said flexible member wrapping around and embedding at least a portion of the edges of said rigid support.

19-36. (Previously Cancelled)

37. (New) The molded article of Claim 1 wherein said molded flexible hollow member has a flexural modulus of less than 1000 MPa.

38. (New) The molded article of Claim 1 wherein said molded flexible hollow member has a flexural modulus of less than 100 MPa.

39. (New) The molded article of Claim 1 wherein said molded flexible hollow member has a flexural modulus of less than 70 MPa.